China. Will that have to be solved before a date and time is fixed?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, Prime Minister has received invitations from so many countries and naturally it will depend upon his convenience, which country he will visit and when.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Sir, it seems to me that there is some rethinking on the part of the Chinese leadership. So, I want to know from the Minister whether it is reflected in our talks with them with regard to India, and if so, how we respond to it.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: There will be reciprocal response.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vishvajit Singh.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I would like to know whether there is re-thinking or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: That was my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. That has been answered. Mr. Vishvajit Singh.

SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the offer of China to India to reopen its Consulate in Lhasa assumes special significance in the face of the diplomatic offensive launched by China regarding its borders with neighbouring countries. For example, Sir, I have learnt that talks are going on between China and Bhutan regarding the Sino-Bhutanese border. That border, Sir. . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Relevance?

SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: It is very relevant. Please bear with me. Sir, we very rarely get a chance to discuss China. I hope you will permit some leeway to put this question which is connected with China.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am bound by the rules. Please be relevant.

SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: The hon. Minister has said that this issue of reopening the Consulate is still under consideration. I would like to urge upon the Minister that whenever it is considered finally, this diplomatic offensive launched by China should also be taken into consideration and only on that basis we should be able to come to some conclusion whether we really want to reopen our Consulate or not. I would like to have an aussurance from the hon. Minister whether he is going to take this into consideration

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: We have noted the hon. Member's views.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Manufacture of Nuclear Bomb by Pakistan

*44. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. President was requested to persuade Pakistan Government not to manufacture nuclear bomb and he was also requested not to supply sophisticated weapons to Pakistan during the Prime Minister's recent visit to that country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) During his recent visit to U.S.A., Prime Minister discussed the question of the supply of sophisticated US weapons to Pakistan and certain aspects of Pakistan's nuclear programme.

(b) The US Government was informed that arms supply to Pakistan made us divert scarce resources from development to defence purchases and led to an arms race in the subcontinent.

Regarding certain aspects of Pakistan's nuclear programme, President Reagan, had assured us that the US

Government was doing all it could to discourage it, as also nuclear proliferation in the whole region.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have got the friendliest relations with the Soviet Union and the Soviet Union has stood by us in all our difficult times. We want to have the same friendliest relations with all countries of the world whether it is Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, Nepal, Srilanka or the United States of America. The only question which is agitating our minds in this context of having these friendly relations is that Pakistan is getting day by day sophisticated weapons, latest weapons and it is also making preparations for a Nuclear bomb. This is naturally worrying this country. In the past the weapons that have been supplied by the United States of America to Pakistan had been used against this country. I do not think these weapons will be used against Afghanistan or the Soviet Union or China or Iran.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: So I would like to know from the Prime Minister whether during his visit to United States of America these facts were brought to the notice of the President of the United States of America and whether it was pointed out that this was very dangerous and the whole atmosphere of peace would be disturbed if these arms were supplied and there was no need to supply these sophisticated weapons to Pakistan, because we want to have the friendliest relations with the United States of America also. The Prime Minister during his visit met the President of the United States of America. The tour was very successful. We are happy about it. And he had talks with the President of the USA . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is over. The Minister will reply now.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: I am sorry, I lost the question in all that.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: My question is whether you are emphasised to the President of America the importance of this issue, of the danger of supplying sophisticated weapons to Pakistan.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Yes.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: What was his reaction? (*Interruptions*). The import of my question is they should be told not to disturb the peace of the world by supplying weapons and helping Pakistan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But you have put it in such a circumlocutory way that the real question got lost.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: It is a complicated issue

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Prime Minister said "yes".

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: My question was: what was the reaction of the President of America? Was America going to stop it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will put the question for you. What is the reaction of the American President to your saying "Yes"?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Let me clarify. I did not say "yes" to the American President. I said "Yes" to the question whether we have pointed out this fact to the American President. Yes, we have. At the same time I would like to say that these are the irritants. It means that we have to spend money to counter these weapons. We are not complaining and whining to the Americans. We are strong enough to stand on our own feet and we do not need to go to other people saying that our security is in question, and we did not do that. What we pointed out with much more seriousness was what we thought is

the prime problem in that area, and that is the leakage of nuclear technology from Western nations to Pakistan, whether it is smuggled, whether it is pilferred, whatever manner it is going in. The other indication is that their programme hinges very much on technology which is clandestinely available from the US and other countries in the West, and this was brought out and pointed out to them. They have said that they will take action to try and stop it. And I have read in the newspapers just a few days ago that the US is not going to supply Hawkeye aircraft to Pakistan. I do not want to say that this is a result of the visit or a result of anything we pointed out to them. But it is certainly an action in a positive direction.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Then, Sir, . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already put so many questions.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: I should not lose my right to have a supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But you have put so many questions. All right, I will give you one minute.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: I am very happy that the Prime Minister has brought to the notice of the United States of America about that danger, and the Prime Minister has said in his statement that we will stand on our own legs and we will not depend on other countries. I am very happy on that...

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: You go to your question straight.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: I want to know whether the Government of India is taking all steps to become strong enough to face the proposed threat from Pakistan by an atomic bomb, whether India is preparing in that direction, to meet the nuclear threat from Pakistan.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Is the question "Are we preparing to meet the nuclear threat of Pakistan?" Is that the limit of the question?

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Yes.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Yes, we are.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Pakistan has two windows, two corridors, so far as the atomic issue is concerned. It has opened one window towards the United States, another window to China. There is a story in the press today. There was a story in the Press today that the US has agreed to supply atomic materials as well as atomic technology to China to upgrade the atomic know-how of China. We all know that there is a link between China and Pakistan. China is helping Pakistan surreptitiously to prepare itself for manufacturing nuclear weapons. May I know from the Prime Minister whether this fact come to his notice—because I only read it today—and whether proper steps have been taken by the Prime Minister and also whether he took up with the US Government? I am asking this because I fear that in future the atomic know-how, sophisticated know-how, sophisticated technology, may come to Pakistan via China.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Sir, it has come to our notice. But we are not aware of the precise details of that. Only when those details are available, we will be able to give more information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Satya Pal Malik.

श्री सत्यपाल मलिक : सभापति जी, बंदर के हाथ में उस्तरा जाने की पूरी-पूरी संभावनाएं हैं और आज से पहले जो इस प्रश्न पर चर्चा हुई, उससे ज्यादा गंभीर स्थिति आज है और खासतौर पर अमरीका के भूतपूर्व राष्ट्रपति ने जो अभी हाल ही में "टाइम्स" में न्यूज इसके सन्दर्भ में डिसक्लोज की कि आणविक हथियारों का इस्तेमाल हमारी जमीन पर किया जा सकता है। तो मैं दो जानकारी माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी से

चाहूंगा । एक तो देश को यह जानकारी देकर ताकत दें जैसा अभी हाल ही में पाकिस्तान के आणविक वैज्ञानिकों ने यूरेनियम एनरिच के मामले में कहा कि पाकिस्तान हिन्दुस्तान से 25 साल आगे है, इस सिलसिले मे मैं चाहूंगा कि देश को अवगत करायें कि हमारी क्या स्थिति है ? दूसरी जानकारी जो आजकल चीन और अमरीका के बीच आणविक जानकारी और आणविक संसाधन देने की जो बातचीत चल रही है उसमें मेरी जानकारी के मुताबिक चीन इस बात के लिये तैयार नहीं है कि वह संधि में कोई सुरक्षा का क्लॉज रखे । वह यह कहता है कि संधि के बाद ही अमरीका कोई चिट्ठी हमें लिखे, उस चिट्ठी के जवाब मे हम एक साधारण तरीके से लिख देंगे कि इसका कोई दुरुपयोग नहीं होगा । तो एक यह है कि चीन को जो भी अमरीका से मिलने वाला है, उसके भरपूर दुरुपयोग की संभावनायें हैं । इस सिलसिले मे मैं माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि हम अमरीका से कोई विरोध इस बारे में प्रदर्शित करने की सोच रहे हैं क्या ?

SHRI S. W. DHABE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to state that this is a very important matter and therefore, Half-an-Hour Discussion should be allowed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. You write to me first. You know the procedure. You are a senior Member and you know you cannot raise it in the House.

श्री खुर्शीद आलम खान : मान्यवर, अगर पाकिस्तान का यह ख्याल है कि वह यूरेनियम एनरिच करने में हमसे आगे है, तो वह इस खुशफहमी में मुबतिल्ल रहे हैं, हमें इसमें कोई एतराज नहीं है । बाकी जहां तक चीन का सवाल है । अब तक जैसा कि प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कहा, हमें कोई इसके बारे में जानकारी ज्यादा नहीं है । लेकिन चीन के प्रधान मंत्री ने इस बारे में जरूर यह कहा है कि हमने ऐसी कोई बात नहीं की है ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Jaswant Singh.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: On the question of Sino-Pak nuclear axis, Sir, reports have been coming in consistently for the past two or three years and reports have been coming about the developing Sino-Pak nuclear axis and the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee also has received the testimony of their officials on this particular aspect. The United States has signed a nuclear agreement as was mentioned by Mr. Gurupadaswamy. Did the Prime Minister, during his visit to the United States, take up the question of Sino-Pak nuclear axis? Did he take up the question of what information the Government of India had on this and what apprehensions we had? Did the US Government inform you that they were going to go in for a nuclear agreement for ten years with the People's Republic of China and that adequate measures would be taken to ensure that the Sino-Pak nuclear axis does not act to the disadvantage of India's self-interest, India's national interest? Finally, was this issue also taken up with them that there have been testimonies before the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the question of China's assistance to Pakistan in the nuclear field and what was the response of the Government of the United States in respect of these matters?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: The questions that you have raised broadly were taken up, not specifically in the way you have raised them. But the same issues were raised and they assured us that they would keep our interests in mind. But the issue is not something which has come up just now. This came up some months ago when the United States decided to go in for giving an atomic, nuclear technology to the Chinese. It has been going on for some time. We would like to see that adequate safeguards are available to the I.A.E.A. And if safeguards are available, that would be definite, positive steps.

श्री सैयद रहमत अली : बगल में छरी, जुबान में राम राम का महावरा हमने बचपन से सुना है । पाकिस्तान का जहां तक ताल्लुक

है, पाकिस्तान एक तरफ दोस्ती की टेबुल पर बैठ कर हमसे बात करता है और जिस वक्त दिल्ली में हमारे फारेन मिनिस्टर्स बातें करते हैं उस वक्त हमारी सरहदों पर गोलियां चलती हैं पाकिस्तान की तरफ से और इसका सिलसिला बहुत ही लम्बा चौड़ा है। मैं सरकार से यह बात जानना चाहता हूं कि पाकिस्तान को दो टूक अन्दाज में यह बात क्यों न कह दी जाये कि अगर आपको दोस्ती करनी है तो खुले दिल के साथ आयें नहीं तो तर्क-ब-तर्क जवाब के लिये तैयार रहें।

†[شری سید رحمت علی : بغل

میں چاچی - زبان یہ رام رام کا محاورہ
ہم نے بچپن سے سنا ہے پاکستان کا
جہاں تک تعلق ہے پاکستان ایک
طرف دوستی کی ٹیبل پر بیٹھکر
ہم سے بات کرتا ہے اور جس وقت
دلی میں ہمارے فارن منسٹر باتیں
کرتے ہیں اس وقت ہماری سرحدوں
پر گولیاں چلتی ہیں پاکستان کی
طرف سے اور اسکا سلسلہ بہت ہی
لمبا چوڑا ہے - میں سرکار سے یہ
بات جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ پاکستان
کو دو ٹوک انداز میں یہ بات کہوں
نہ کہی جائے کہ اگر آپ کو دوستی
کرنی ہے تو کھلے دل کے ساتھ آئیں
نہیں تو ترک بہ ترک جواب کیلئے
تیار رہیں -]

श्री खुर्शीद आलम खान : मान्यवर, हम सब समझते हैं, किसके बगल में छुरी है और कौन हाथ मिलाना चाहता है। लेकिन हम यह यकीन दिलाना चाहते हैं कि पाकिस्तान अगर किसी गलतफहमी में है कि हमें धोखा देकर कुछ हासिल कर लेगा या धोखे में डाल देना चाहता है तो मैं अपने दोस्त को यकीन दिलाऊंगा कि हम उनकी हर चाल को समझते हैं।

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the US Government, whether in the case when the President of the US meets the President of India or in official discussions, takes one stand and immediately they take a different stand which goes against the interests of India. For some reason or other, it appears that we are reticent about relations with China. Under these circumstances I would like to know from the Prime Minister what pragmatic steps would this Government take to meet a situation like this when the United States Government is unreliable and we are reticent about our relations with China?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, as already mentioned, we had five rounds of talks with China and the 6th round will be held this fall. All the matters will be discussed particularly about the border.

श्री राम चन्द्र भारद्वाज : मान्यवर, लन्दन से प्रकाशित एक अरबी समाचार पत्र में साक्षात्कार में जिया-उल-हक साहब ने कहा है कि परमाणु बम न बनाने का अगर कोई दबाव अमेरिका उन पर डालेगा तो उस दबाव के सामने वे घुटने नहीं टेकेंगे। तो क्या इस बात की जानकारी सरकार को है और यदि वे घुटने नही टेकेंगे तो फिर अमेरिका से बातचीत या जो इतने सवाल आ रहे हैं, अमेरिका ने क्या आश्वासन दिया और अमेरिका में क्या बातचीत हुई उसके बावजूद सामान किसी बाई-पास से पहुंच जायेगा। इसलिये वे घुटने टेकने के लिये जो नहीं कह रहे हैं इस कहने का रहस्य क्या सरकार को समझ में आया है ?

श्री खुर्शीद आलम खान : मान्यवर; हमें मालूम है कि ये घुटने कितने मजबूत हैं ये जरूर टिक जायेंगे।

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that reports from Pakistan and other quarters indicate that Pakistan's nuclear threat is a real threat and they seriously propose to go in that direction, is the Government considering the development of a nuclear deterrent of our own? A simple question.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, our options are open. (*Interruptions*):

†[] Transliteration in Arabic script.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kapur.... You are not asking a question. That is all right. Next question.

Categorisation of persons uprooted from Merapani area

*45. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:† SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the people who became homeless during the trouble in the Merapani area last June, are Rajbansis who are categorised as Scheduled Castes in West Bengal from where they had migrated to this area in Assam where they are not categorised as Scheduled Castes, if so, what led to this change in categorisation; and

(b) what steps are being taken to solve this anomaly and rehabilitate them in the area from where they have now been rendered homeless?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) As in rest of the State the population in the Merapani area is a mixed one.

It is a fact that the Rajbansis are categorised as Scheduled Castes in West Bengal and not so in Assam. In accordance with the provision of Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are specified in relation to a particular area/State.

(b) As a result of steps taken to restore normalcy, most of the people displaced as a result of the clashes have returned to their respective places. The State Government are undertaking necessary relief and rehabilitation measures. A Central team has been deputed to assess the damage and to recommend the quantum of Central assistance to be given to the State Government towards relief and rehabilitation. In the meanwhile, the State Government have been given a Ways and Means Advance of Rs. 50 lakhs to meet the emergent expenditure. Besides, a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs has been released from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

French help to make Ganga free from pollution

*46. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of France have recently offered to the Government of India their help to make river Ganga free from pollution;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether the Government of India propose to accept the offer?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India and France have agreed to increase bilateral cooperation in the exchange of technical and scientific information and promoting joint research and development programmes in the field of extraction of energy from effluents, urban waste and agricultural residues. France has proposed to extend financial and technical assistance for mutually agreed projects especially for the site of Banaras. A memorandum of Understanding to this effect was signed on 9th June, 1985.

† This question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ashwani Kumar.